

Message Text

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67

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 /069 W

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R 271329Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3390

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 2337

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR PINS ET SY XF

SUBJECT: EPMG CONDEMNS (ARAB) FOREIGN INTERFERENCE

REF: FBIS TEL AVIV 260935Z FEB 75

1. ETHIOPIAN MEDIA GAVE LARGE PLAY FEBRUARY 25-26 TO EPMG'S STRONG DENUNCIATION OF "SOME FOREIGN COUNTRIES" INTERFERING IN ETHIOPIA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND "FINANCING AND ENCOURAGING BANDITS" IN ERITREA. STATEMENT WAS CONTINUATION OF RECENT NATIONALISTIC EXHORTATIONS (CF. ADDIS 1936) TO GAIN PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR PMAC'S ERITREAN POLICY. IT WAS NOTABLE, HOWEVER, THE PMAC WENT FURTHER THAN PREVIOUS STATEMENTS IN PINPOINTING ARAB MACHINATIONS IN BLACK AFRICA.

2. EPMG STATEMENT SINGLED OUT SYRIA AS "ONE OF CERTAIN ARAB COUNTRIES WHO USE BANDITS, MONEY AND INTOXICATING DRUGS IN A VAIN ATTEMPT TO DESTROY ETHIOPIAN UNITY." THE STATEMENT CONTINUES: "SYRIA'S PLAN TO SEPARATE ERITREA FROM ETHIOPIA SO AS TO MAKE IT PART OF THE ARAB WORLD SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS A PLOT AGAINST THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ENTIRE BLACK PEOPLE (OF AFRICA)."

3. IN LIKENING ATTEMPTS TO DISMEMBER ETHIOPIA TO THE CASES OF THE CONGO AND NIGERIA, THE EPMG RECALLED THE OAU'S STRONG OPPOSITION TO FOREIGN INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OAU MEMBER STATES. THE STATEMENT SAID "THAT BY VIOLATING ETHIOPIA'S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, SYRIA WAS VIOLATING THE CHARTER OF THE OAU."

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE EPMG HAS RECENTLY STEPPED UP ITS ATTACKS AGAINST "OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE", ESPECIALLY FROM SYRIA, THIS IS THE STRONGEST STATEMENT TO DATE ATTEMPTING TO PLAY UPON ANTI-ARAB FEELINGS AMONG BLACK AFRICANS WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN ENHANCED BY SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN-ARAB DISAGREEMENT DURING THE RECENT OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING IN ADDIS ABABA.

5. ASSUME DEPARTMENT HAS FULL TEXT VIA FBIS OF EPMG STATEMENT. EMBASSY WILL POUCH TO ADDRESSEE POSTS STATEMENT AS PUBLISHED IN LOCAL PRESS.
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